

Amendments to the Claims:**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A device for spreading apart a body cavity during diagnostic or surgical procedures comprising:

pivotally connected cross arms having forward end portions with plurality of blades and rearward end portions with hand grips, the connection between said cross arms permitting pivotal movement ~~therebetween and a predetermined longitudinal relative shifting of said cross arms~~ and enabling said plurality of blades to be laterally moved away from each other in the same plane into an open position;

a locking device connected to said cross arms, said locking device holds said cross arms in said open position incrementally over an angular range of pivotal movement of said cross arms, wherein said plurality of blades are adapted to spread apart the body cavity during diagnostic or surgical procedures; and

an illumination device, said illumination device attached to said pivotally connected cross arms, wherein said illumination device provides illumination to the body cavity during diagnostic or surgical procedures.

2. (Original) The device according to claim 1 further comprising an irrigation channel, said irrigation channel attached to said pivotally connected cross arms, wherein said irrigation channel provides irrigation to the body cavity during diagnostic or surgical procedures.

3. (Original) The device according to claim 2 wherein said irrigation channel comprises a suction catheter, said suction catheter removes fluids from the body cavity during diagnostic or surgical procedures.

4. (Original) The device according to claim 1 wherein said illumination device is removably attached to said pivotally connected cross arms.

5. (Original) The device according to claim 2 wherein said irrigation channel is removably attached to said pivotally connected cross arms.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Canceled).

8. (Original) The device according to claim 1 wherein said plurality of blades comprise at least two flexible blades.

9. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 8 wherein said ~~plurality~~ plurality of blades are connected to each other one another by an elastomeric membrane.

10. The device according to claim 8 wherein said flexible blades are made from an elastomeric material.

11. (Original) The device according to claim 1 wherein said device is reusable.

12. (Currently amended) A device for spreading apart a vaginal canal during diagnostic or surgical procedures comprising:

pivotally connected cross arms having forward end portions with plurality of blades and rearward end portions with hand grips, the connection between said cross arms permitting pivotal movement ~~therebetween and a predetermined longitudinal relative shifting of said cross arms and~~ enabling said plurality of blades to be laterally moved away from each other in the same plane into an open position;

a locking device connected to said cross arms, said locking device holds said cross arms in said open position incrementally over an angular range of pivotal movement of said cross arms, wherein said plurality of blades are adapted to spread apart the vaginal canal during diagnostic or surgical procedures; and

an illumination device, said illumination device attached to said pivotally connected cross arms, wherein said illumination device provides illumination to the vaginal canal during diagnostic or surgical procedures.

13. (Original) The device according to claim 12 further comprising an irrigation channel, said irrigation channel attached to said pivotally connected cross arms, wherein said irrigation channel provides irrigation to the vaginal canal during diagnostic or surgical procedures.

14. (Original) The device according to claim 13 wherein said irrigation channel comprises a suction catheter, said suction catheter removes fluids from the vaginal canal during diagnostic or surgical procedures.

15. (Original) The device according to claim 12 wherein said illumination device is removably attached to said pivotally connected cross arms.

16. (Original) The device according to claim 13 wherein said irrigation channel is removably attached to said pivotally connected cross arms.

17. (Canceled).

18. (Canceled).

19. (Original) The device according to claim 12 wherein said plurality of blades comprise at least two flexible blades.

20. (Original) The device according to claim 12 wherein said plurality of blades are connected to ~~each other~~ one another by an elastomeric membrane.

21. (Original) The device according to claim 19 wherein said flexible blades are made from an elastomeric material.

22. (Original) The device according to claim 12 wherein said device is reusable.

23. (Currently amended) A method for spreading and holding open a vaginal canal while providing illumination and irrigation to the vaginal canal during diagnostic or surgical procedures, the method comprising the steps of:

inserting a device comprising pivotally connected cross arms having forward end portions with plurality of blades and rearward end portions with hand grips, the connection between said cross arms permitting pivotal movement ~~therebetween and a predetermined longitudinal relative shifting of said cross arms~~ and enabling said plurality of blades to be laterally moved away from each other in the same plane into an open position;

a locking device connected to said cross arms, said locking device holds said cross arms in said open position incrementally over an angular range of pivotal movement of said cross arms; an illumination device, said illumination device attached to said pivotally connected cross arms; and an irrigation channel, said irrigation channel attached to said pivotally connected cross arms;

moving said plurality of blades away from each other spreading the vaginal canal open;
and

illuminating the vaginal canal with said illumination device during the diagnostic or surgical procedures.

24. (Original) The method according to claim 23 further comprising the step of irrigating the vaginal canal with said irrigation channel during the diagnostic or surgical procedures.

25. (Canceled).

26. (Canceled).